Implementation of Panchayati Raj

1777. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minsiter of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of Panchayati Raj in different States has been delayed;

(b) if so, which are the States.

(c) when these constitutional obligations are to be fulfilled by the State Governments; and

(d) the steps taken by the Central Government to implement the Panchayati Raj in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) Consequent upon the enactment of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, all the States and UTs have either amended or brought in fresh legislation on Panchayati Raj to conform to these new Constitutional provisions. After passing the legislations, the States are required to constitute panchayats and take further action to give effect to the provisions of the state legislation on Panchayati Raj. Therefore all further action, like endowment of powers and functions, setting up of State Election Commission and State Finance Commission etc. have to be taken by the States in accordance with their state legislation.

Departmental Examination for Promotion

1778. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any exclusive provision for SCs and STs for conducting Departmental Examination for promotion from the Section Officer Grade to the Under Secretary Grade in the Central Secretariat Service;

(b) if so, whether such examinations have been held regularly during the last five years;

(c) the number of times these examiatnions have been conducted during the last five years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Secretriat Services (CSS) Rules and Regulations Provide for holding of a Limited Departmental Competitive Examination exclusively for the officers of SC/ST categories to fill up the posts reserved for SC/ST catagory in the grade of Under Secretary, for which eligible officers are not available in the prescribed zone of consideration for regular promotions.

(b) to (d) Due to prolonged litigiation relating to the Seniority List of Section Officers, no regular promotion could be made to Grade 1 of CSS after the issue of 1986 panel. As the examination under reference is held to fill up the vacancies which are available after drawing the regular panels, there has been no occasion to participate in the exam. durign the last five year in so far as CSS is concerned.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

1779. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers who voluntarily retired in the public sector as well as in private sector under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme during each of the last three years and so far in 1995;

(b) what is the total amount paid to the workers on their retirement;

what is the number of workers in public and private sectors who are likely to retire under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme during the year 1995-96;

(d) whether any difficulty is being experienced on the voluntary retirement of experienced/technical workers; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) As per the available information 1,76,954 workers/employees in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) till 31.3.1995. The year-wise break up is is under:

Upto 31.3.1993	—	1,01,295
During 1993-94	—	46,426
During 1994-95	—	29,233
	Total =	1,76,954

The assesment about the number of employees/workers who would be retiring have to be made by the PSEs themselves. The exact number of employees/workers who would be retiring under the VRS during the year 1995-96 in each PSE is, therefore, not available.

Information on VRS with regard to Private Sector is not maintained.

The total amount paid to the workers/employees on their retirement is an ex-gratia payment equivalent to 1¼ months' emoluments (pay+DA) for each completed year of service or the monthly emoluments (pay+DA) at the time of retirment multiplied by the balance months of service left before the normal date of retirement, whichever is less.

(d) and (e) As the VRS is meant to be introduced only when there is surplus manpower the question of experiencing any difficulty on the voluntary retirement of experienced/technical workers etc. does not arise.

Testing of Unani Drugs

1780. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established Pharmacopoaia Committee and testing laboratory in the National Capital to test the Unani drugs supplied to C.G.H.S. dispansaries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to ensure the quality of Unani medicines supplied to the C.G.H.S. beneficiaries in the Capital and elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Govt. of India has established Unani Pharmacopoeia Committee and Pharmacopoeial Laboratory of Indian Medicine, Ghaziabad to test the medicines of Ayurved, Unani and Siddha. This Laboratory also undertakes testing of the samples of Unani drugs sent from CGHS Unani Stores.

The Unani Purchase Advisory Committee comprising the experts of CGHS and the Ministry of Health monitor the quality of Unani medicines which are provided for use of CGHS beneficiaries. Besides, tests for quality are also carried out in PLIM, Ghaziabad.

Solar Photovoltaic Plants in Maharashtra

1781. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many solar photovoltaic plants are likely to be set up in Maharashtra during the remaining period of Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?